FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

Conservation Practice Jobsheet *512*

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **January 2012**

Landowner _____

WHAT IS FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING

Forage and biomass planting is the establishment of adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

PURPOSE

- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health
- Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production
- Reduce soil erosion and improve soil and water quality
- Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to all lands suitable to the establishment of annual, biennial or perennial species for forage or biomass production.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Growth of seedlings or sprigs will be monitored for water stress. Such stress may require reducing weeds, early harvest of nurse crops, irrigation, or replanting of failed stands. Weed control can be accomplished through any of several methods. Flash grazing by livestock may be used to control annual grasses and forbs, but extreme caution should be used to avoid selective grazing of highly palatable planted species. This method will not be used after July 15, except when abnormal summer moisture promotes excessive weed growth. Flash grazing will not be used when the soil is wet to avoid damage to young plants from hoof action. Mowing is an optional weed control measure during the establishment and subsequent years. Mowing should coincide with grassland bird nesting period. Chemicals used must be federally and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with Federal and State requirements

FORAGE AND BIOMASS – JOBSHEET

Landowner/Cooperator _____

Field Office _____

Plan Number _____ **Location** _____

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)		
	Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production	
	Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health	
	Improve soil and water quality	
	Reduce soil erosion	
	Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production	
	Other:	

Seedbed Preparation Methods (Check all that apply). Document the Field Number and the Number of Times the Practice is to be Conducted in the Field.			
	Method	**Field Number**	**Times**
	Chisel/Subsoil		
	Disk		
	Plow		
	Harrow		
	Herbicide (burndown)		
	Prescribed Burn		
	Drainage System		
	Packer/Cultipacker		

Seeding Method (Document the Method Used in Each Field)		
	Method	**Field Number**
	Broadcast	
	Conventional Drill	
	No-till Drill	
	Planter	
	Sprigger	
	Native Grass Drill	

This practice requires a current Louisiana One Call Dottie Confirmation Number.

Call before you dig, wait 48 hours for the site to be marked, observe the marks and dig with care. The service is free. It's the law! Civil Penalties range up to $25,000 for violations of the "Dig" law

LA One Call™ Dottie says, Dig Safely. 1.800.272.3020

NRCS, LA
JANUARY 2012

Site Information - The fields planned for forage and biomass planting are indicated below.

(A) Field No.	(B) Field Acres	(C) Species	(D) Planting Rate (PLS/Ac)	(E) Planting Depth (inches)	(F) Planting Date	(G) Lime	(H) N[1/]	(I) P[1/]	(J) K[1/]

[1/] Lime and Fertilizer recorded in Nutrient Management Jobsheet (590)